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NEWSLETTER

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Number 28



420,000 CONTRACTS WRITTEN ON 1941 WHEAT CROP

SEVERAL STATES ARE THREATENED BY GRASSHOPPERS

Fall Survey Shows Heaviest Infestation in Kansas and Dakotas

Grasshoppers are going to cause trouble again this year in the Dakotas, southern Nebraska, western Kansas, and the northeast corner of Montana. The amount of damage done to wheat crops will depend largely on the effort wheat growers put forth to spread enough bait at the proper time.

The hopper egg survey made last fall by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine shows that infestation will be severe through a large portion of the eastern half of North and South Dakota. Heavy egg deposits were also found in Morton, Grant, and Sioux Counties, N. Dak., and in Corson County, S. Dak. Also, several large areas of western Kansas were found to be severely infested. Portions of the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles were found to be threatened.

(See HOPPERS page 7)

IN THIS ISSUE:

420,000 contracts	-- 1
Hoppers threaten	-- 1
FCI summarized	-- 3
Meetings boost sign-up	3
Premiums for 13 years	4
Thumbnail sketch	-- 4
16 contracts--1 farm	- 4
Testimonials	-- 5
Poisoning pays	-- 6
Wheat prices jump	-- 7
Timely tips	-- 7
Mrs. Jones likes FCI	- 7
Some reminders	-- 8

All But Four Had Losses

Seventy-seven of the 81 insured wheat growers in Brule and Buffalo Counties, S. Dak., collected indemnities last year because drought, hail, and grasshoppers shared the crops among themselves before the wheat was ripe enough to harvest.

About 1,900 bushels of premiums were collected from these two counties whereas a total of 3,800 bushels were paid back as indemnities with which to help buy seed, feed, food, and clothes for the coming year.

Insured Production Hits a New High While Insured Acreage Moves Down

Reports on the 1941 sign-up show that 420,077 spring and winter wheat growers have insured their next year's crop to produce more than 110 million bushels. Current figures show that about 42,000 more contracts were written than in 1940. Slightly over 10,946,000 acres are protected for which growers have paid premiums totaling about 14,359,000 bushels.

All but eight states made substantial increases over 1940 business. Largest increases show up in Oregon, Utah, Illinois, and Virginia, where participation more than doubled over the preceding year. In Arizona, Arkansas, and West Virginia, where no contracts were issued in 1940, reports show that 205, 38, and 94 contracts, respectively, have been issued this year.

The total insured production for 1941 is about 1-3/4 million greater than in 1940. The 1941 insured acreage, however, has decreased by about 1,818,000 acres from the figure for

(See SIGN-UP page 7)

REPORT ON THE SIGN-UP PHASE OF THE CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM, BY STATES, FOR 1939, 1940, and 1941, AS OF MARCH 1941

State	Number of premiums collected			Premium payments (bushels)			Estimated insured acreage			Estimated insured production		
	1939	1940	1941	1939	1940	1941	1939	1940	1941	1939	1940	1941
<u>Spokane:</u>												
Arizona	1,002	1,988	205		154,272	3,173	111,160	164,792	5,344	1,558,732	2,236,622	88,963
California	1,708	6,338	3,329		132,941	201,518	128,901	178,204	192,109	2,042,027	2,898,594	2,635,465
Idaho	38	104	103		1,929	233,195	93,086	1,854	278,129	15,421	36,592	4,809,552
Nevada	662	1,972	5,789		228,369	236,569	32,713	293,762	1,953	1,368,920	3,646,449	39,228
Oregon	432	645	3,460		25,944	68,626	167,958	31,661	67,565	513,804	423,525	3,899,620
Utah	1,332	3,441	4,514		229,455	245,837		382,409	340,369	2,262,883	5,363,044	933,165
Washington												5,456,158
<u>Minneapolis:</u>												
Minnesota	10,211	19,634	15,456	172,637	317,403	269,223	250,032	382,329	265,828	2,198,867	3,305,661	2,697,779
Montana	5,200	3,902	3,265	663,537	512,924	446,570	536,042	350,092	228,905	4,425,554	2,418,079	1,985,230
North Dakota	28,091	30,484	19,654	1,953,884	1,834,751	1,169,628	2,080,758	1,973,315	874,313	12,308,941	11,294,893	6,596,385
South Dakota	10,643	19,448	15,080	730,069	1,046,745	965,887	510,422	717,345	454,510	2,796,008	3,746,505	2,933,889
Wisconsin	183	537	706	1,228	2,941	4,710	1,199	3,115	4,272	15,578	37,424	50,277
Wyoming	321	1,189	1,517	29,478	120,881	149,151	23,407	79,524	90,100	207,101	561,561	565,228
<u>Kansas City:</u>												
Arkansas	1,430	3,491	5,853	78,366	247,810	415	70,711	155,921	755	582,410	1,221,567	5,031
Colorado	14,886	58,479	60,883	776,568	3,696,452	412,879	882,567	3,072,235	221,339	7,327,446	23,903,959	1,610,777
Kansas	15,735	20,116	25,200	197,000	244,491	351,413	343,102	365,476	2,499,083	3,264,641	3,500,101	2,295,419
Missouri	13,197	53,924	63,292	495,528	1,972,857	2,653,273	427,114	1,391,249	1,459,848	3,921,750	13,162,249	14,408,092
Nebraska	111	57	260	12,153	11,731	35,023	8,356	7,249	71,632	71,532	37,104	105,251
New Mexico	8,635	22,518	25,056	270,313	879,245	813,486	463,908	1,066,806	889,256	4,016,729	8,587,646	7,799,464
Oklahoma	3,677	10,858	10,192	396,006	1,069,359	1,031,967	346,966	811,243	601,376	2,528,238	5,189,953	4,095,124
Texas												
<u>Chicago:</u>												
Illinois	12,190	14,256	38,071	185,057	215,405	496,707	267,161	290,665	570,242	2,912,253	3,232,105	7,325,269
Indiana	11,157	26,885	35,506	141,556	280,232	371,814	163,679	332,525	395,380	2,020,303	4,048,780	5,182,078
Iowa	4,645	6,515	7,509	57,143	97,558	111,980	72,599	100,298	101,106	894,064	1,228,413	1,310,714
Kentucky		946	596		14,763	9,719		16,521	11,011		169,606	113,365
Michigan	5,057	15,178	15,344	30,545	86,869	112,664	49,233	134,254	144,862	739,664	1,901,564	2,171,203
Ohio	10,253	27,669	34,008	131,215	304,745	336,063	123,497	314,156	353,147	1,737,600	4,231,059	5,085,899
Tennessee		238	210		2,747	2,044		4,773	3,543		43,858	30,693
<u>Washington, D.C.:</u>												
Delaware	79	451	671	858	4,209	6,032	1,766	8,889	10,967	22,208	102,221	140,107
Maryland	985	1,256	1,746	10,895	15,061	21,250	22,997	32,752	38,158	290,905	410,802	540,541
New Jersey	29	109	165	190	594	1,285	380	1,206	2,336	5,778	17,983	37,843
New York	652	878	1,040	5,030	5,858	8,680	8,756	9,192	12,680	149,854	132,649	204,181
North Carolina		198	458		928	3,005		1,952	5,465		19,414	60,967
Pennsylvania	2,299	5,788	7,520	15,823	36,145	53,387	30,449	68,380	89,240	448,933	979,495	1,399,281
West Virginia	1	94	94	19		1,167	37		2,066	402		24,753
Virginia	916	1,164	2,556	7,348	9,508	24,764	15,362	19,980	45,024	189,239	243,664	560,737
Total	165,777	360,656	420,077	6,684,215	13,804,832	14,358,958	7,235,050	12,764,124	10,946,284	60,839,785	108,333,141	110,591,202

A FORMER GOVERNOR SUMMARIZES MERITS OF CROP INSURANCE

North Dakota's former Governor Walter Welford, whose large wheat farm near Pembina is fully covered by all-risk crop insurance for 1941, is a strong advocate of the crop insurance program because, as he expresses it, "The insurance program offers the wheat grower protection for the hazards that so often ruin a fine stand of wheat.

"The farmer who insures his wheat crop is not risking a large share of his capital funds on one crop, as is the case without insurance. In case of loss, the investment in the crop will be more than repaid. If all the farmers in a community would insure their wheat crop, everyone in the community would prosper. There would be none of the periodic local depressions which happen when crops are poor. Schools, churches, business, and everyone in the community have a direct interest in the welfare of the farmer. The prosperity of a community is a direct reflection of the prosperity of the farmer. I believe that a farmer has a duty to the community and to his neighbors, as well as to his dependents and creditors, to do everything possible to maintain his income. One of the best ways to maintain ones income is to insure the major cash crop which is wheat."

Cummings Comes to K.C.



Mr. Art Cummings

But that was in 1939--the year Arthur M. (that stands for Melvin) Cummings was named branch office manager at Kansas City for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. . . Came from western Kansas. Years ago they knew him in Claflin and Attica, Kan., as a school student . . . Even then he yearned to be a farmer--and realized his ambition . . . Along with that realization he developed a weakness for steak, his favorite food excepting when he's in the East . . . Then it's oysters . . . Began farming in 1915 . . . Owned and operated his own farm since 1917. . . Some-time between then and two years ago he had his most thrilling experience---Art was chased by a bull. If he hadn't won the race he wouldn't be in Kansas City (or anywhere on earth) today . . . chills still
(See CUMMINGS page 4)

Businessmen Meetings Boost Kansas Sign-up

More contracts were issued to growers in Smith County, Kans., for 1941 insurance than to any other county in the State. During the sign-up campaign, says the February 1 issue of "AAA News for Kansas," bankers and grain dealers from all towns in the county were guests of the Chamber of Commerce at a meeting where the 1941 crop insurance program was discussed. Also, several meetings were held with women's farm organization units. "The philosophy back of AAA was discussed at all these meetings. . . Perhaps that meeting with the businessmen was one of the big factors in putting over their successful crop insurance sign-up."

Smith County growers paid 1,943 premiums totaling 83,000 bushels. Insured production for the county, although not so much as for several other counties in the State, was about 400,000 bushels.

Kingfishers Lose Crop But Have Wheat Anyway

Two hundred and eighteen wheat growers of Kingfisher County, Okla., are 55,000 bushels of wheat better off this year than they would have been without all-risk crop insurance. This is the extent that drought, freezing, rust, and hail damaged insured acreages in the county. A total of 768 contracts were in force on the 1940 crop.

One Indemnity Will Pay Premiums For Thirteen Years Says Jim Peterka

Jim Peterka of Walsh County, N. Dak. who plans to raise about 3,000 bushels of wheat every year, says that crop failure can be expected to strike his part of the country once every 13 years. He believes crop insurance pays and has supported this belief by taking out insurance all three years it has been offered.

Here's the way Mr. Peterka sums it up: "When I take the 75 percent insurance I'm guaranteed approximately 2,250 bushels. If the cash price of wheat were 50 cents a bushel, I'd get \$1,125 on a complete loss.

"The three years I've carried crop insurance I've paid out a total of \$250 in premiums. If I continue to pay in at this rate, in 13 years I'll have paid in about \$1,125, which is the amount I would get in case of a total crop failure.

"In other words, we figure that out of every 13 crops we'll have one complete failure. My crop insurance premiums work out so that in 13 years I'll have paid in enough to pay my indemnity for that total failure. It's just a way of 'saving for a rainy day.'"

War conditions have destroyed from 40 to 50 percent of the normal export market for farm products from the Western Hemisphere.

CUMMINGS -- Cont'd.

creep up his back when he thinks of that time . . . Growing wheat and raising livestock on his farm in Meade County, Kansas, has been and still is a big interest in his life . . . Developing purebred livestock also is his hobby . . . He remembers 1934 as the year he was named a master farmer of Kansas. That was two years after he had taken charge of the Meade County corn-hog program . . . At the same time he was actively working in furthering the national farm program with the Meade County AAA committee. He also was a director of the Kansas State Cooperative Association, helping with organization and speaking here and there on marketing and buying. Art was named to the Kansas State crop insurance committee in September 1938 . . . Contacting banks and insurance companies was his job . . . Then he was made principal marketing specialist and headquartered in the Kansas City branch office of the FCIC . . . Assistant branch manager, then acting branch manager were other positions he held just before being named branch manager in November 1939 . . . In between times during those years he would, and has, walked a mile to see a good football or basketball game . . . And when it comes to busting the maples, he is a regular "alley" cat (so look out you bowlers) . . . But don't disturb

16 Contracts Issued To One Flickertail Farmer

No one has yet successfully contradicted the fact that Howard Henry of Westhope, N. Dak., has more 1941 crop insurance contracts than any other wheat grower in the Flickertail State. He has 16 separate contracts which cover a total of almost 1,500 acres.

"I've insured all my wheat," Henry said, "both the low and high producing tracts. The reason I covered the low yielding farms is that they've been poor producers the last 30 years and there's more chance for a loss on them than on the better tracts. If I produce good crops on these farms in future years, the coverage will increase, and if they fail to come through I will discontinue them as wheat farms. Thus, insurance will classify my various tracts as to ability to grow wheat. My contracts guarantee me about 8,000 bushels of wheat next fall regardless of hail, drought, etc.

Guaranteed yields on Mr. Henry's tracts range from 6.5 to 9.8 bushels an acre; premiums from 1.59 to 2.16 bushels an acre.

him when he's reading a good western thriller . . . That's his relaxation . . . That and studying up on new seed varieties of wheat and farming methods for his locality.



Here are a few testimonials which prove that the crop insurance program is becoming recognized, by wheat growers and businessmen alike, as a means of adding to the general prosperity of the entire community. The following quotations are from Kansas:

"We encourage our customers to take out crop insurance, for it makes it safer for us to extend them credit."--H. A. Murlin, Oberlin banker.

"The farm program and crop insurance have been a life saver in this county."--H. Q. Banta, manager of the Oberlin Milling Company.

"Crop insurance kept business in business."--H. C. Vavroch, Decatur County AAA committeeman.

"Crop insurance saved me from putting a mortgage on my farm."--Carl Johnson, Kanona.

"My crop insurance indemnity paid the interest to the bank, a few bills, and necessary farming expenses. If a man can do that well on a failure, it's pretty good."--Leonard Wood, Norcatur.

"Saved my hide! It's wonderful! I'll insure every year even if crop prospects are good."--Fred Jamousek, Kanona.

"Our bank examiners consider assignments on crop insurance as 100 percent collateral."--Don Britton, cashier, Citizens State Bank, Ellsworth.

"A mortgage on a wheat crop is not worth a nickel if no wheat is raised. Take crop insurance with an assignment along with the mortgage, and we have good security."--Leland Glasson, supervisor, FSA, Ellsworth.

"Crop insurance indemnity wheat helped me to remodel my poultry house and complete our new farm home."--Joe Vavroch, Oberlin.

I'm glad to know that the man I borrowed money from is protected with an assignment and that means that I am protected from going into debt."--Fred Schneider, Ellsworth.

EFFECTIVENESS OF GRASSHOPPER CONTROL FROM 1937 TO 1940

STATE	DOLLARS SAVED FOR EACH DOLLAR SPENT				TOTAL CROPS SAVED	TOTAL CROPS LOST
	1937	1938	1939	1940		
Arizona	\$ 68	\$ 68	\$ 156	\$ 85	\$ 1,775,605.	\$ 510,205
Arkansas	96	92	48	468	4,188,787	786,712
California	84	100	327	138	15,588,343	2,019,092
Colorado	20	55	55	46	42,282,831	12,778,183
Idaho	--	90	149	--	1,395,644	437,099
Illinois	27	53	26	--	1,901,420	1,756,634
Iowa	34	48	72	47	7,125,945	9,319,886
Kansas	185	318	52	75	73,047,156	18,501,827
Michigan	23	33	40	15	2,598,108	1,137,869
Minnesota	22	47	48	34	29,368,362	6,328,302
Missouri	56	241	136	59	15,612,942	7,841,846
Montana	22	35	19	9	17,154,758	14,051,064
Nebraska	60	135	74	35	70,623,001	34,941,375
Nevada	--	178	102	35	1,120,927	377,501
New Mexico	23	19	14	6	5,344,658	426,096
North Dakota	26	46	43	22	56,789,152	42,884,117
Oklahoma	120	138	70	10	20,790,706	9,258,242
Oregon	--	92	128	156	645,382	143,125
South Dakota	15	32	29	15	20,542,065	34,705,476
Texas	110	69	42	38	22,539,109	6,190,539
Utah	15	282	127	77	3,066,603	5,021,152
Washington	--	108	142	361	228,158	103,618
Wisconsin	49	73	929	15	31,151,804	8,795,816
Wyoming	27	76	23	14	4,972,121	3,071,382
TOTALS					\$449,853,587	\$221,387,158

Prepared in the Division of Domestic Plant Quarantines, Washington, D. C.
January 17, 1941

A Lot of Things Have Happened—Tarvestad

North Dakota wheat farmers got about 12 times as much for their wheat in 1918 as they did in 1932 according to a statement made over the radio a few weeks ago by Lloyd Tarvestad. He runs a 480-acre farm in Bottineau County.

He said: "Lots of things have happened to me as a farmer. I sold wheat for \$3.27 a bushel in 1918 and I got 27 cents for the same kind of wheat in 1932. . . I've carried crop insurance both years ('39 and '40) and haven't as yet had to collect. I think crop insurance is a fine thing when we have crop failures like we had in 1934 and 1936. I will always carry it."

HOPPERS -- Cont'd.

Inasmuch as the crop insurance program has a big stake in the wheat crop of the areas mentioned, every effort should be made by county and community committeemen to inform insured growers that their insurance contracts protect them against grasshopper damage only if they make a reasonable effort to save the crop by spreading bait at the proper time and in quantities recommended for their particular area.

To show how much grasshopper loss can be reduced by the proper use of poison bait, we present some statistics on page 6 as compiled by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.



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Am up KONVHOSNI ON per I



I had my last year's
wheat crop insured

(THE ABOVE DEVICE WAS USED BY NELSON COUNTY, N. DAK., DURING THE 1941 SPRING WHEAT CAMPAIGN.)

The Smith County, Kans., Chamber of Commerce discussed crop insurance with bankers and grain dealers from all towns in the county during the 1941 sign-up. Smith County has more 1941 contracts than any other county in Kansas.

BECAUSE OF ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS IN FEBRUARY AND IN ORDER TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR FARMERS TO CONSIDER THEIR INSURANCE PROBLEMS, AAA COMMUNITY COMMITTEEMEN IN LeMOURE COUNTY, N. DAK., MADE A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE CANVASS.

Stencils with the illustration shown on the next page impressed on them are available through State AAA offices.

Mrs. Jones Makes Full Use of Crop Insurance

Mrs. Elma S. Jones of Crow Agency in Big Horn County, Mont., demonstrated her belief in crop insurance by going into the Big Horn County AAA office well in advance of the '41 sign-up and asking for all details concerning the program. She said she did not want to miss out on getting her 1941 crop insured.

Mrs. Jones has taken out crop insurance every year and has yet to collect an indemnity. She insured 404 acres in 1941 by paying a 650-bushel premium. Her insured production is about 3,500 bushels.

1941 SIGN-UP -- Cont'd.

1940. This is due to two reasons: (1) more growers with smaller acreages, having seen a practical demonstration of the program on larger farms, took out insurance on their 1941 crop for the first time, and (2) more instances occurred where both the landlord and tenant took out insurance on their respective interests in the crop.

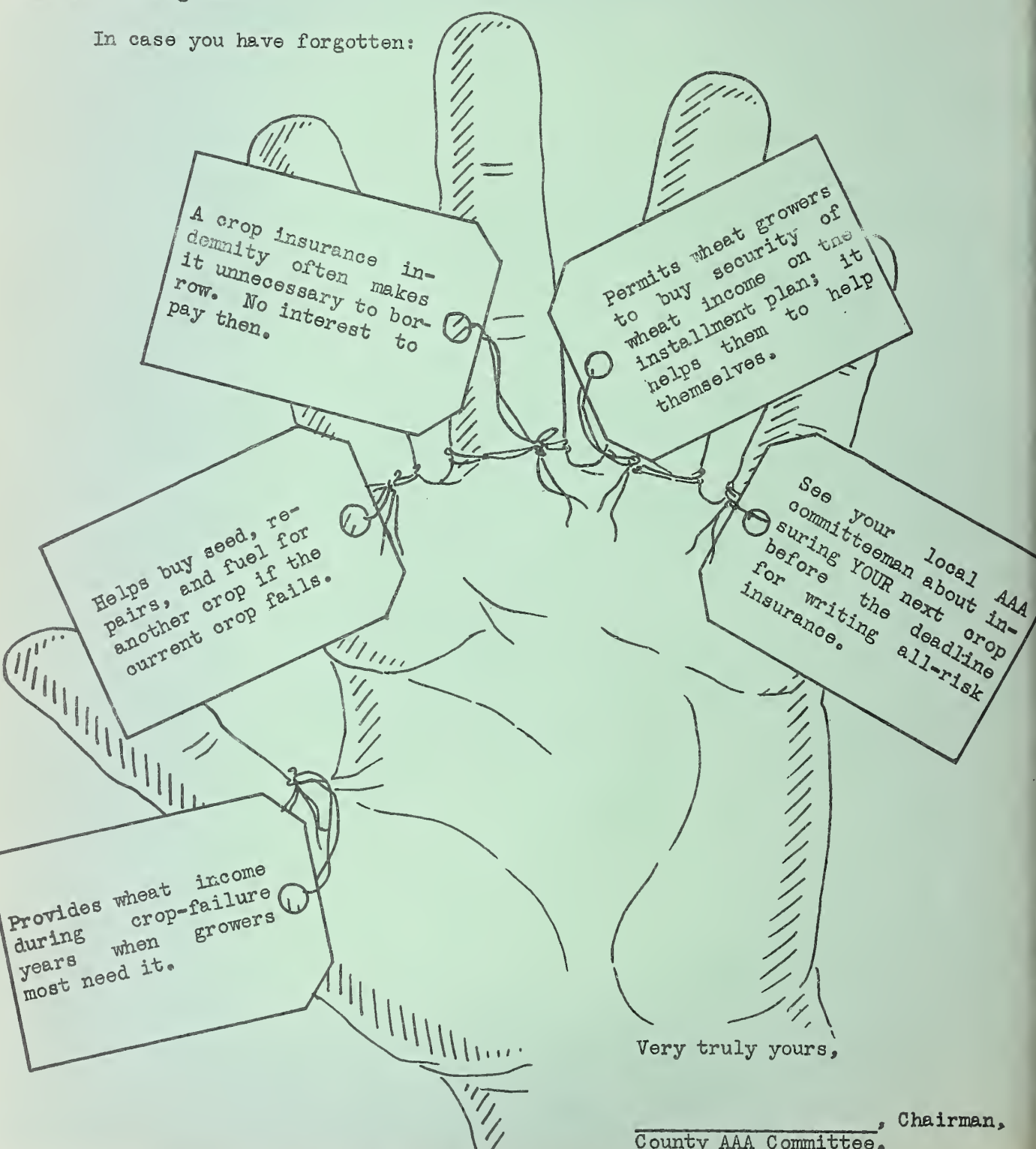
Of the 14,359,000 bushels paid in as premiums, about 8-3/4 million bushels represent collections made by the Kansas City office, 3 million by Minneapolis, 1-1/2 million by Chicago, 1 million by Spokane, and 120,000 by the Washington (DC) office.

Complete sign-up and coverage figures, by states, for all 3 years of the FCI program are given in the table on page 2.

Something to Remember!

Dear Mr. Wheatgrower:

In case you have forgotten:



A crop insurance indemnity often makes it unnecessary to borrow. No interest to pay then.

Permits wheat growers to buy security of wheat income on the installment plan; it helps them to help themselves.

Helps buy seed, repairs, and fuel for another crop if the current crop fails.

See your local AAA committeeman about insuring YOUR next crop before the deadline for writing all-risk insurance.

Provides wheat income during crop-failure years when growers most need it.

Very truly yours,

_____, Chairman,
County AAA Committee.